



**\$31 MILLION ASSIGNED TO THE ISLAND
IN FUNDS FOR HIV/AIDS PATIENTS
*Sunday, April 12, 2009***

WASHINGTON, DC- The U.S Department of Health and Human Services(HHS) informed Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi that Puerto Rico will be allocated \$31 million in funds under the Ryan White Program. The Ryan White program's objective is to provide appropriate medical care for low income patients with HIV/AIDS who have no Medicare or Medicaid coverage.

"This allocation of money is critical to the health care of patients with HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico. The program gives priority to women and infants, for the proper care of their disease," explained the Resident Commissioner.

This allocation will be made to the Puerto Rico Department of Health.

The allocation is not part of the assignment to Puerto Rico under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), but rather represents discretionary funding made by HHS.

Additionally, HHS announced the allocation of \$2.3 million for an Immunization program. The money comes from ARRA funds and is part of President Barack Obama's plan to provide more than \$300 million nationally in vaccines for children.